

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: SCUL: XD XF

SUBJECT: PROPOSED U. S. TRACK AND FIELD TEAM TOUR FALL
1973

REF: ISLAMABAD 1602

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1. IN RESPONSE SPECIFIC REQUEST FROM PAKISTANI GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT PREPARED ORGANIZE TRACK AND FIELD TEAM TOUR TO PAKISTAN AND OTHER NEA COUNTRIES FALL 1973. LONG TIME ABSENCE U. S. ATHLETIC GROUPS IN REGION AND STRONG PAKISTAN INTEREST AND ASSURED IN- COUNTRY SUPPORT CHIEF REASONS FOR EXPLORING IDEA THIS TIME. FULL DEPARTMENT SUPPORT, HOWEVER CONTINGENT UPON STRONG ENDORSEMENT BY ACTION POSTS AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR IN- COUNTRY TRAVEL, ROOM BOARD, AND MISCELLANEOUS COSTS BY HOST GOVERNMENTS AND POSTS FROM GOE RESERVES.

2. PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS WITH AMATEUR ATHLETIC UNION (AAU) INDICATE EARLY FALL SEASON PREFERABLE IN ORDER OBTAIN BEST TALENT. SUMMER, WINTER, SPRING PERIODS US ATHLETES ENGAGED IN NATIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS. AAU WILL RECRUIT FROM POST COLLEGIATE CLUB AND MILITARY SOURCES. QUALITY THESE SOURCES VERY HIGH FOR EXAMPLE:

A. THOMAS HILL, HIGH HURDLER, US ARMY, BRONZE MEDALIST

MUNICH. RANKED THIRD IN WORLD 1972, BEST PERFORMANCE 1972. 13/3.

B. ARNIE ROBINSON, LONG JUMP, US ARMY, BRONZE MEDALIST MUNICH, RANKED THIRD IN WORLD 1972, BEST PERFORMANCE 1972 26 FEET 8 INCHES.

NOTE THESE ATHLETES ARE AVAILABLE AND INTERESTED BUT DEPT ADVISES AGAINST PREMATURE PUBLICITY. DEPARTMENT IN COORDINATION WITH AAU SEEKING THROWER (JAVELIN, SHOT, DISCUS) LONG- DASH MAN (400-800 M) AND DECATHLON ACE TO ROUND OUT TEAM. ONE COACH- MANAGER WOULD ACCOMPANY.

3. RATIONALE THIS TEAM COMPOSITION IS TO AFFORD MAXIMUM EXPOSURE US TECHNICAL EXPERTISE IN SKILL EVENTS NOT GENERALLY SEEN PERFORMED IN NEA REGION. DEPT SEEKING MAXIMUM MULTIPLIER EFFECT FROM TEAM VISIT THROUGH CLINCS, DEMONSTRATIONS AND DIALOGUES. DEPT REALIZES THAT COMPETITIONS ARE INEVITABLE BUT STRESSES POINT THAT THIS IS NOT RPT NOT PURPOSE THIS TOUR. ATHLETES WILL HAVE FINISHED LONG INDOOR AND OUTDOOR SEASONS THUS NOT PREPARED FOR MAXIMUM PERFORMANCES. FREQUENCY OF COMPETITION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WILL BE AT DISCRETION OF COACH AND ATHLETES. ISLAMBAD

REQUESTED ADVISE GOP WISHES THIS POINT.

POLE VAULT NOT INCLUDED DUE INADEQUATE SOFT LANDING PITS
IN NEA REGIONS.

4. REFTTEL CITED INTEREST US MUNICH OLYMPIC GOLD MEDAL-
ISTS FOR TOUR. NOTE THAT US WON ONLY SIX GOLD MEDALS IN
TRACK AND FIELD. AAU INFORMS THAT THEY ARE NOT RPT NOT
AVAILABLE.

A. TEAM WILL BE EQUIPPED WITH APPROPRIATE LITERATURE,
PHOTOGRAPHS, AND TECHICAL FILMS.

5. POSTS REACTION REQUESTED. ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TAGS: SCUL, XD, XF
To: ANKARA
COLOMBO
ISLAMABAD
KABUL
KATHMANDU
NEW DELHI
TEHRAN

Type: TE

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